



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/675,251	09/29/2000	Robert A. Barnes	PHN 17,661	1245
24737	7590	12/23/2003	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			LEE, MICHAEL	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2614	8	
DATE MAILED: 12/23/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/675,251	BARNES ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
M. Lee	2614		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2000.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,4 . 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hu et al. (5,654,743).

Regarding claim 1, Hu discloses a monitor 2 showing an input for receiving RGB video signal and another input for receiving HV including monitor control signals, which meet the receiving step as claimed, a video amp 21 for processing the video signal in accordance with the control signals, which meets the processing step as claimed.

Regarding claim 2, video amp 21 processes the brightness and contrast of the video signal, which meets the picture enhancement operation as claimed.

Regarding claim 6, see rejection to claim 1.

Regarding claim 7, in addition above, Hu further shows a display monitor 22 for displaying the processed television signal, which meets the means for displaying as claimed.

Regarding claim 8, Hu discloses a picture memory 14 for storing and supplying video signals RGB, which meets the supplying step as claimed, a processor 12 and timing circuit 15 for providing control signals, which meets the quality indication supplying step as claimed. It should be noted that the signal outputs, R, G, and B, from

memory 14 are digital to analog converted because the video amp 24 is operated in analog mode (col. 5, lines 65 to col. 6, lines 2).

Regarding claim 10, see rejection to claim 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-5, 9, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hu et al. (5,654,743).

Regarding claim 3, Hu does not specify the sharpness improving operation as claimed. In any event, Hu teaches that it is equally possible to control other monitor function as well (col. 6, lines 5-7). Since sharpness control is inherently part of a television receiver, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Hu so that the control signals can be used to control the sharpness of the television receiver.

Regarding claim 4, in addition of above reasoning, since noise reduction circuits are well known in the art for reducing noise in a television signal, it would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include a noise reduction circuit into Hu so that it can be controlled by the control signals.

Regarding claims 5, 9, and 11, Hu does not specify that the analog signal is formed by decoding a digital picture signal as claimed. In any event, it is well known that television signals are commonly stored in digital form on a storage medium for better picture quality and manipulability. In order to effectively utilize the storage space, the digital data must be compressed or encoded. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include a decoder into Hu so that compressed video signal can be decompressed. Encoded or compressed digital data are normally generated from the original digital data in accordance with bit-rate, compression ratio, and quantization level parameters. Since Hu teaches that is equally possible to control other monitor functions as well (col. 6, lines 507), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use Hu to transmit the bit-rate, compression ratio, and the quantization level parameters as claimed.

Regarding claim 12, in addition of above, digital storage medium inherently includes means for retrieving.

Regarding claim 13, in addition of above, the decoder aforementioned inherently includes a means for receiving.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ezaki (5,402,187) shows an aspect ratio code transmitter.

Kitahara et al. (5,684,540) shows a helper signal transmitter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Lee whose telephone number is **703-305-4743**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John Miller**, can be reached at **703-305-4795**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



M. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614

December 17, 2003

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hu et al. (5,654,743).

Regarding claim 1, Hu discloses a monitor 2 showing an input for receiving RGB video signal and another input for receiving HV including monitor control signals, which meet the receiving step as claimed, a video amp 21 for processing the video signal in accordance with the control signals, which meets the processing step as claimed.

Regarding claim 2, video amp 21 processes the brightness and contrast of the video signal, which meets the picture enhancement operation as claimed.

Regarding claim 6, see rejection to claim 1.

Regarding claim 7, in addition above, Hu further shows a display monitor 22 for displaying the processed television signal, which meets the means for displaying as claimed.

Regarding claim 8, Hu discloses a picture memory 14 for storing and supplying video signals RGB, which meets the supplying step as claimed, a processor 12 and timing circuit 15 for providing control signals, which meets the quality indication supplying step as claimed. It should be noted that the signal outputs, R, G, and B, from

memory 14 are digital to analog converted because the video amp 24 is operated in analog mode (col. 5, lines 65 to col. 6, lines 2).

Regarding claim 10, see rejection to claim 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-5, 9, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hu et al. (5,654,743).

Regarding claim 3, Hu does not specify the sharpness improving operation as claimed. In any event, Hu teaches that it is equally possible to control other monitor function as well (col. 6, lines 5-7). Since sharpness control is inherently part of a television receiver, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Hu so that the control signals can be used to control the sharpness of the television receiver.

Regarding claim 4, in addition of above reasoning, since noise reduction circuits are well known in the art for reducing noise in a television signal, it would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include a noise reduction circuit into Hu so that it can be controlled by the control signals.

Regarding claims 5, 9, and 11, Hu does not specify that the analog signal is formed by decoding a digital picture signal as claimed. In any event, it is well known that television signals are commonly stored in digital form on a storage medium for better picture quality and manipulability. In order to effectively utilize the storage space, the digital data must be compressed or encoded. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include a decoder into Hu so that compressed video signal can be decompressed. Encoded or compressed digital data are normally generated from the original digital data in accordance with bit-rate, compression ratio, and quantization level parameters. Since Hu teaches that is equally possible to control other monitor functions as well (col. 6, lines 507), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use Hu to transmit the bit-rate, compression ratio, and the quantization level parameters as claimed.

Regarding claim 12, in addition of above, digital storage medium inherently includes means for retrieving.

Regarding claim 13, in addition of above, the decoder aforementioned inherently includes a means for receiving.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ezaki (5,402,187) shows an aspect ratio code transmitter.

Kitahara et al. (5,684,540) shows a helper signal transmitter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Lee whose telephone number is **703-305-4743**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John Miller**, can be reached at **703-305-4795**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

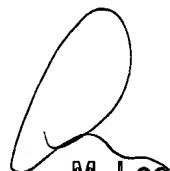
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



M. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614

December 17, 2003